

# THE BEST YET!

WEALDSTONE (1) 2 WYCOMBE WANDERERS (0) 0

Approximate attendance 1,900

IN A SEARING, top-speed match, Wealdstone — call 'em Dave's Delights after this one — put on a dazzling show to dump Wycombe, potential league leaders, back into the Isthmian League pack.

Unfair perhaps to single out one player from this talented team but on Tuesday night's showing, current Player of the Year John Hutchinson is pure England class.

He never stopped running, he hit shots, headed hard, tried all the way and wrapped up the points with a wonder goal on 53 minutes. And he's only 21 to boot, as one might say.

Yet this young Wealdstone side has an average age of just over 22 with the baby of the team, Colin Franks, 17.

Their sheer pace proved too much for Wycombe's drive. Hughie Lindsay into a Duke of Plaza Toro position to lead from his own area and with two minutes left, had Junior Franks galloping round the Wycombe area, as though the match had just started.

What a wonderful chance he'd have in the Championship tomorrow!

## Linking

The opening Wealdstone move had Hutchinson and Dave Leonard linking on the left with the cross failing and then Maskell beat Keith Searle (and he's 21, too) to the ball. Hutchinson crashed a rising shot wide from Searle's cross in eight minutes and then, after a fine through ball by Franks had him linking with Dave Swain, slammed the ball against the brand new Harrow Observer sign over the goal.

Dave Bromley intervened to halt the dangerous Tom Houston, but the Wycombe team soon had another good run on 14 minutes that ended in a goal kick.

A superb retreating header by Tom McGuinness set Hutchinson off again, but this time he hit full flight. Rundle was the next to down him and on 20 minutes Wycombe brought Searle into the flat out brigade.

Lindsay's light freekick hovered to the left of goal, but everyone missed it. Busby fouled against the dour McGuinness in midfield and then Hutchinson's pass to Swain was wasted.

## Drawn away

Wealdstone's tactics were to dazzle Wycombe with speed, have Swain and Searle drawing the defence away to the wings and leave the centre open for whoever was around.

At one stage Leonard was a virtual second centre-forward, but it was visiting right-winger Thompson who went nearest on 32 minutes with a drive from a Baker pass that Andy Williams held on the deck.

A good Wealdstone move broke up with a poor push-back by Bromley that had Micky Doyle racing to cover and it was Doyle once more when he came down his wing, passed to Lindsay, and on to Swain, only for Dave Bullock to miss.

With five minutes to the break, a Worley corner eluded Williams and cannoned off a post for Leonard and Bromley to rescue the day, but it was right on half-time when Wealdstone took the lead when Leonard

scored, one that was to be ruled for many by the referee and ended in a group of Wycombe fans following him to the inevitable fireworks for the lead to be doubled.

Rundle headed away a Dave Leonard free-kick that he had conceded himself and Hutchinson sped on to the ball to crack it left-footed across Maskell and in off the far right hand post at such speed that elderly spectators could be forgiven for thinking it was a Lindsay effort.

Let up when leading? Not this lot. Leonard, Searle and Hutchinson were buzzing along five minutes later with the winger going close and a long cross ball from Swain on the right gave Searle a chance minutes later.

## Wasted kick

Lindsay had now retreated to his equivalent of a Fuhrerbunker, but he was up the other end for a free-kick after Hutchinson had been fouled twice, only to waste it and young Franks was the next one for the treatment, a crushing tackle from Thompson.

Worley, a hard-worker against the odds, landed a perfect ball for Busby to head in, but Williams snapped it up in great style as Wealdstone were revelling in this new-found control of events.

Move slowed upon move and with Horseman off for Wycombe, there was no power left in the visitors' attack.

It took Leonard, Bromley and Franks to build up one final attack that Searle again got so close with and that was the end.

In a phrase, the perkliest, most promising performance this side has provided and one that left coach Underwood musing: "How can I drop anyone for Saturday after that?"

A word though, for sound referee Vic James who had come down from Manchester to officiate and then set off again on Wednesday to handle the Derby County-Chelsea League Cup replay . . . where he encountered a 20-year-old Chelsea starlet with an £8,000 tag on his head. His name? Hutchinson.

Wealdstone: A. Williams; D. Leonard, M. Doyle; D. Bromley, T. McGuinness, C. Franks; K. Searle, H. Lindsay, D. Swain, D. Bullock.

Wycombe: A. Williams; D. Leonard, M. Doyle; D. Bromley, T. McGuinness, C. Franks; K. Searle, H. Lindsay, D. Swain, D. Bullock.